

— JON REIDER

CIA makes its brazen return

For the last few years, we've heard a lot about how the 1960s are over. Hollywood has even made a movie, *The Big Chill*, to celebrate their passing. Like much of my mellowing generation, I have hesitantly but inevitably compromised my youthful ideals and the realities of being over 30 (even almost 40) in the '80s. Unlike some of my peers, however,

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until now I haven't felt too bad about the passing of the '60s.

Although I enjoy telling today's Stanford students about how we took on LBJ, the War in Vietnam, and the Draft (the real if-you-go-you-might-die Draft, not just a postcard registration), I also tell them to be grateful they don't live in an age of total commitment, where you have to declare and prove your moral and political purity in new ways every week. All in all, those may have been exciting times, but they were

CIA chief, blitzed the campus for a day, presenting a new image of the CIA as a non-interventionist almost liberal government research service, more an adjunct to the Library of Congress than a nest of spies. All that stuff about subverting annoying leftist governments, sending Castro exploding cigars, was a thing of the past, we were told. Jimmy thought all that was vaguely immoral. I don't know if anyone was convinced by Turner's performance, but it doesn't matter now because the current administration has reversed even the cosmetic changes and the "open government" rhetoric of its predecessor.

And so the CIA is back, spending thousands of our tax dollars to entice Stanford students into its employ. They are using all the standard Orwellian language (remember, it is 1984) about "career opportunities," "professional careers," "personal satisfaction," "work of vital importance," and so on. They

probably not relevant. Who wants to know about primitive tribes in this era of electronic satellite? Well, maybe in Afghanistan: Who knows? I hope you anthropologists gave it a try anyway.

Of course, the humanities were sadly absent from the CIA's list of desirable skills for the defenders of freedom. Philosophy, religious studies, English, don't seem to have much use. Oh, you have a double major in I.R.? Come right along. And, say, doesn't philosophy have a lot of math in it these days? You never can tell — they might find a place for that too.

I don't know what I'm worried about. The University is still neutral officially in politics — everyone agrees on that, don't they? After all, it's not as if ROTC were coming back, or as if the White House had snookered us into accepting the Reagan library when we didn't want it at all. We're just neutral, that's all, calmly extending the frontiers of knowledge and doing good deeds.

I don't know what I'm worried about. After all, my hands aren't all that clean. I too eat at the Stanford trough; it's good enough for me. I have former students who work for Citicorp and Procter & Gamble. I've made peace with that.

What's the difference between those outfits and the CIA?

The CIA has lost its sense of shame. They've come out of the closet with a vengeance. My guess is that they have done their market research well (the CIA is big on research, remember) and they've gotten their money's worth from their ads. I don't know what bothers me. They have as much right to advertise as the next guy, and maybe, to borrow an argument from the ROTC debate, we'll be better off (safer?) with liberally minded Stanford-types in the CIA, not just Yalies and Princetonians. I don't find that too convincing, however.

There's nothing to worry about. I really believe that. I just felt better when the CIA was ashamed of itself. They were always there, of course, but they weren't quite so proud of themselves. I wish they'd tell me what they're so proud about. That would help a lot.

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also very crazy ones, and the casualties are legion.

The other day a former student asked me to respond in print to the full page ad for the CIA in The Daily. I told him that I had given up tilting windmills (I teach "Don Quixote" now instead; it's safer and more fun.) It was time to pass the torch; let him do it. Maybe if I could be amusing, but how can you be amusing about the CIA, for God's sake? So I let it pass, until the ad appeared again and again like a Lite beer commercial. Now I realize that the '60s really are over, all my anecdotes about the Golden Age of David Harris and Bruce Franklin notwithstanding.

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seem to want practically everybody; not just the science and math type for whom all the companies compete. They want people with skills in economics, political science and something called overseas intelligence. (Are there some Stanford students who already know about that? Yes, I imagine there are.)

Almost any subject will fit in if you're the right person. Even law, though the CIA wanting legal experts is a little like the Catholic church wanting experts on birth control. They want to study it only to understand its basic principles. It's nice to know that the social sciences have job opportunities — at least they're not too fuzzy for the CIA. Sociology was missing, it's true (too left-wing?), and anthropology is